

Meet Us Face to Face We Will Treat You RIGHT

GOOD RUBBERS



HOT SHOES

**BEATTY & LONG**  
 YOU KNOW US

**The DEPARTMENT CO.**  
 EAST CENTER STREET.

 Beautiful  
 Bedroom  
 Furniture  
 Oak, Birds  
 Eye  
 Maple and  
 Mahogany

 Young Man! Our business is to help worthy  
 young men to start homes of their own. We  
 make everything satisfactory.

 Whole Outfit On Easy Payments or  
 20% Off All Furniture For Cash.

**FRED W. PETERS**  
**Fire Insurance Agency**  
 No. 110 1-2 South Main St.  
 SURETY BONDS ISSUED.

**BEST QUALITY GOODS ONLY**  
 Lime, cement, sewer pipe, etc. **HARD and SOFT COAL**  
**PRICE & HURLEY**  
 PHONE 284

**Slab Wood and Cuttings**

 We have plenty of each on hand just now. If  
 you need either, it would be well to order now.  
**HARD AND SOFT COAL, WOOD**  
**IMPLEMENT MANUFACTURING CO.,**  
 Both Phones. North Greenwood St.

**Washing is Drudgery** just as any other work un-  
 less you are well equipped  
 for handling the work. That's the reason we handle it in such a satisfactory  
 manner. We are equipped. **Anthony's Laundry.**
**HARD COAL**  
 We have it---all grades---  
 Chestnut, Stove and Egg.  
 Phone 22.

**THE OHIO MILLING &  
 ELEVATOR CO.**
**NEW TELEPHONE COMPANY ASKS  
 CITY COUNCIL FOR FRANCHISE**
**Organization Headed by H. D. Critchfield of Milwaukee,  
 M. C. Aye, Harry N. Quigley and Congressman Mouser  
 Promise to Install a Telephone System in Marion City  
 and County, That Will Give the People Good Service at  
 a Very Low Cost—First Shot in the Local Telephone  
 War is Fired Monday Evening.**

The telephone war which has been anticipated ever since the recent consummation of the deal between the Marion County and Central Union Telephone companies was launched at a regular meeting of the city council, Monday evening, when an ordinance granting a franchise to a proposed new company was introduced. Those at the head of the enterprises are H. D. Critchfield, a prominent telephone magnate of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, M. C. Aye, Harry N. Quigley and Congressman Grant E. Mouser, of Marion.

The introduction of the ordinance came as a complete surprise to every one in the council chamber, even members of the council being unapprised of the plans of the promoters. Fred E. Guthery, one of the leading stockholders of the Marion County Telephone Company, was present and rendered a warm argument in opposition to the proposed franchise. Mr. Guthery said that he had come to the council meeting in regard to a tax matter and was as thoroughly surprised as any one by the introduction of a franchise ordinance. He said that he knew nothing of the movement until a few minutes before the introduction of the ordinance.

Messrs. Mouser and Quigley were present on behalf of the proposed new company and both spoke for the purpose of urging the passing ordinance. The chief argument, however, was between Messrs. Quigley and Guthery, and during the progress of the debate, some plain and unvarnished terms were used. Members of council and others who attended the meeting are of the unanimous opinion that before this matter is finally disposed of, one of the hottest battles in the annals of the city council will have been waged. Following the argument between the three lawyers, Councilman Wilson, chairman of the franchise committee, moved that the matter be referred to his committee to be investigated and acted upon as speedily as possible. The motion was carried and was supplemented by another motion by Councilman Phillips, to have an adjourned meeting held next Monday evening, November 25. This motion was carried. The telephone question will come up for further discussion at that time, but it is regarded as doubtful that any action will be taken. It is altogether likely that a committee of members will be appointed to visit various cities and counties for the purpose of investigating the telephone situation there.

Mr. Guthery, in his argument Monday evening, made the assertion that Marion county has better telephone service than any other county in the state and that the plant here is the best in the state. No member of the council gave an expression of opinion on the matter, Monday evening. A secret session of an hour was held in the first place, and during this session the proposed franchise of the new company was examined and discussed. Following the secret session the franchise ordinance was read and after that were the arguments. The entire proceeding occupied two hours or more, and it was 11:30 o'clock when the session was over.

The proposed franchise is said to be practically an exact copy of the franchise granted the Marion County company. If it is granted, the new company pledges itself to have the plant completed and in operation by a year from June 1, 1908. The rates are to be \$30 a year for business and office phones and \$18 a year for residence phones. There is to be free county service and all of the other privileges originally given by the Marion County company. The new company agrees to furnish a bond of \$10,000 to indemnify the city against any damages in the construction of the plant.

Mr. Quigley opened the argument following the reading of the ordinance. He said that he desired to submit two propositions. The first was that of the present telephone service, with due deference to the gentlemen connected with the company, is extremely unsatisfactory. The second proposition was that the gentlemen who represent the franchise just introduced are prepared to build a telephone plant and expect themselves and their associates to invest good, honest money to furnish good service.

Mr. Quigley said that as a result of the deal recently consummated between the Marion County and Central Union companies, there has been an increase in telephone rates and a reduction of service. "I am not going to argue the satisfactoriness or otherwise of the present service," said Mr. Quigley, "because it is well known to all of you. I will only say that we are prepared to put in a service that will be in keeping with the needs of the city. We put this up to you as a business proposition."

Congressman Mouser followed his

law partner with a talk, in which he reviewed the history of the Marion County Telephone company. He said that the Bell company, when it controlled the telephone situation in Marion, imposed on the citizenship. Conditions became so obnoxious to the people that the Marion County company was finally organized and the council at that time was convinced that competition was the thing to furnish relief. For a time following the organization of the Marion County company, the people were furnished better service, but lately conditions have changed, said Mr. Mouser. He said there seems to have been a merger between the Marion County and Bell companies and conditions now are the same as those which existed when the Bell held full sway.

"If the argument in favor of a new company was good when competition against the Bell was thought desirable the same argument is good now," said Mr. Mouser. "The people say that the Marion County company has broken its pledge in order that the stockholders of the company might be remunerated."

Mr. Mouser said that no harm could be done by allowing a competing company to enter the field and it is almost certain that the people would be benefited. He said that he is frank in declaring that at least 50 per cent. of the people of the county are crying for a new telephone company.

The new company would be a home concern, Mr. Mouser said, with practically all Marion county capital invested. He said that Mr. Critchfield, the prime mover, is a self-made man, wealthy, and one of the best telephone men in the United States. He is now president of the Milwaukee Independent Telephone company.

Mr. Guthery came back with a determined argument. He said that he had not come to the meeting to talk on the telephone business but was ready to argue with the gentlemen who represent the new company. "I most heartily concur with the gentlemen who have just spoken in urging the council to give this matter their most careful and earnest consideration," said Mr. Guthery. He denied that there has been any "merger" with the Bell company and said that anyone who desires to satisfy himself on this point may examine the books of the company.

Mr. Guthery said that not a dollar of stock in the Marion County Telephone company is owned by the Bell company, the fact of the matter being that not to exceed \$10,000 of outside capital is invested.

"It has been said that the service of the company is very bad," said Mr. Guthery. "It is true that for six months, until about two weeks ago, the service was not what it ought to be. The reason was that we could not employ girls for operating the exchange at the money we were then able to pay. October 1, we raised the pay of the girls 25 per cent., and now we are able to give the best of service."

"It has been said that certain promises have been made and broken," continued Mr. Guthery. "When the Marion County company was organized five years ago, there were in existence in Marion county not to exceed 1,170 telephones. There are now in Marion county almost if not more than 5,000 phones. At that time there was not a single line running out of Marion aside from the Bell long distance line. Today there are more than 300 phones around Marion which are furnished service anywhere in the city or county. The Bell company, at the time it held the field here, refused to furnish phones when the people offered to pay for them."

Mr. Guthery declared that there is not a telephone company in existence which can place phones outside of the city and exist on a rental of \$1.50 a month for each phone. He said that during the past few weeks the cost of operating the Marion County company's lines outside the city has amounted to 79 per cent. of the income, while the cost of those within the city has been 35 per cent. of the income.

"You will see from this that everything is not profit in the telephone business," said Mr. Guthery. "It is difficult to make people understand that the larger the telephone plant the greater the proportionate cost to operate it."

Mr. Guthery went on to explain that the Marion County Telephone company has the multiple board system in use at its exchange and that as the number of subscribers increases the proportionate cost of operation grows. As long as the telephones are within the radius of a half mile of the exchange, the cost of operation is low, but when the radius extends to a mile and a half, the extent of wires becomes greater

**From the Worlds  
 Best Makers.**
**Overcoats Suits  
 and Rain-Coats.**

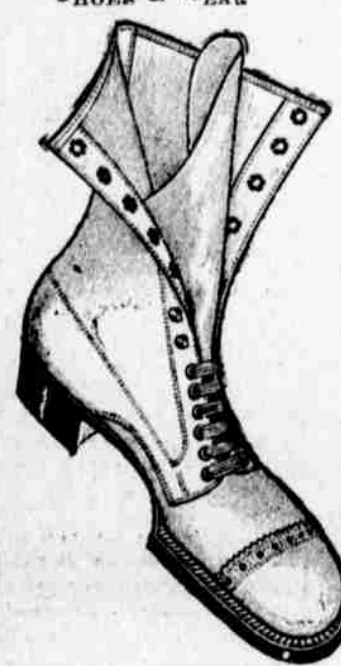
 We are receiving the popular indorsement  
 of our superior making in the shape of the  
 biggest demand in the history of this store.

**The Famous Kuppenheimer  
 and Society Brands.**

 Suits, Overcoats, Raincoats  
 \$10, 15, 18, 20, 25, 30, \$35.

**HUGHS & CLEARY, Main & Center.**

 Copyright 1907  
 The House of Kuppenheimer  
 Chicago

 SMART & WADDELL'S  
 HORN & EAR


Are You

**HUNTING**

Some Good

**HUNTING**
**BOOTS?**

 We have them in blacks  
 and tans in 10, 12, and  
 15 inch tops.

Prices----\$3.00 to \$6.00.

**SMART & WADDELL**

fact of the matter is that twice the time is now required to get long distance service. This I know from actual experience. We promise if you grant us this franchise, we will give you better service and that we will keep within the rates set in our franchise. We are not here to buy any second-hand outfit, but to install a brand new telephone plant."

"We haven't had enough experience in the telephone business to be able to tell how many phones can be strung on a mile of wire, but we can tell you that we will furnish phones at the rates set in our franchise and that we will stand hitched. Then if the investors fail to get dividends, we won't complain and try to absorb another company in order to get even."

Councilman Wilson, in making his motion to refer the matter to the franchise committee, said, "As is customary, there are some things in regard to this proposition which must be done in private session."

**SHRUBBERY MOVED**
**Taken From Public Library Site to  
 Garfield Park.**

A large amount of the shrubbery taken from the public library site is being removed to Garfield park and placed at the entrance. The superintendent hopes to have all of the parks in excellent shape for next summer as all of the work at present under way is progressing nicely. The young people of the city are promised good skating at all of the parks.

 "Meet me at Kaler's Candy Shop."  
 11-12-07

Try ADMIRAL COFFEE.

**Pears Cheap**

 We have a lot of  
 canning pears that we  
 can sell you cheap.  
 Better buy some of  
 these pears instead of  
 apples. While they  
 last at  
 \$1.00 per bushel.

**Robinson's Grocery**

 Phones 39. 209 E. Center St.  
 Agency for Lipton's Teas.

**The Christmas Season**

With all its good time of gift-giving, is nearly here. The old problem, "What to Give," faces you again, and as a practical help in choosing your gifts would suggest something worth while. In fact, nothing would be more acceptable than a fine gold watch for lady or gentlemen, therefore, you'll find it more convenient to do your trading now, as we lay them aside and engrave them free.

**G. W. BOWERS**

Jeweler Optician.

Attend

**Ammann's**

Big Stove Sale.